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CLAIMS:
What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method of disseminating information, comprising:
2   forming one or more category frames containing data for
3   user-selectable categories;
4   forming a meta frame identifying the user-selectable
5   categories corresponding to the one or more category frames;
6   and
7   transmitting broadcast information including the meta
8   frame and the one or more category frames in sequence on a
9   common transmission media shared by a plurality of users.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2   responsive to receiving the meta frame and the one or
3   more category frames at a device employed by one of the
4   plurality of users, extracting category information from the
5   meta frame and presenting the user-selectable categories to
6   the user.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, further comprising:
2   responsive to selection of a user-selectable category
3   by the user,
4   receiving a category frame corresponding to the
5   user-selectable category from the one or more category
6   frames,
7   formatting data within the category frame for
8   presentation to the user, and
9   presenting the data from the category frame to the
10   user utilizing the device.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of forming one

2   or more category frames containing data for user-selectable

3   categories further comprises:

4   forming each category frame with a starting delimiter

5   identifying a start of the respective category frame, a

6   major code identifying a category to which the respective

7   category frame belongs, encoded data for the respective

8   category frame, and an ending delimiter for the respective

9   category frame.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of forming a

2   meta frame identifying the user-selectable categories

3   corresponding to the one or more category frames further

4   comprises:

5   forming the meta frame with

6   a starting delimiter identifying a start of the

7   meta frame,

8   a major code identifying the meta frame,

9   for each category corresponding to one of the one

10   or more category frames,

11   a category name for the respective category,

12   a major code identifying the respective

13   category to which the one of the one or more

14   category frames belongs,

15   position information specifying a position of

16   the one of the one or more category frames within

17   the broadcast information, and

18   an ending delimiter identifying an end of the meta

19   frame.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting

2   broadcast information including the meta frame and the one

3   or more category frames in sequence on a common transmission

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4   media shared by a plurality of users further comprises:
5   transmitting the meta frame and the one or more
6   category frames in repetitive succession in one or more
7   continuous cycles on one or more frequencies.

1   7.   The method of claim 6, wherein the step of transmitting
2   the meta frame and the one or more category frames in
3   repetitive succession in one or more continuous cycles on
4   one or more frequencies further comprises:
5   transmitting the meta frame and the one or more
6   category frames in repetitive succession in a single
7   continuous cycle on a single frequency.

1   8.   The method of claim 6, wherein the step of transmitting
2   the meta frame and the one or more category frames in
3   repetitive succession in one or more continuous cycles on
4   one or more frequencies further comprises:
5   transmitting the meta frame in repetitive succession on
6   a first frequency; and
7   transmitting subsets of the one or more category frames
8   in repetitive succession on one or more other frequencies,
9   wherein a unique subset of the one or more category frames
10 is transmitted on each of the one or more other frequencies.

1   9.   The method of claim 6, wherein the step of transmitting
2   the meta frame and the one or more category frames in
3   repetitive succession in one or more continuous cycles on
4   one or more frequencies further comprises:
5   transmitting the meta frame and the one or more
6   category frames in repetitive succession in a single
7   continuous cycle on each of a plurality of frequencies at
8   different offsets, wherein a different frame from the meta

9   frame and the one or more category frames is transmitted at
10   a given time on each frequency within the plurality of
11   frequencies.

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1   10. A system of disseminating information, comprising:

2   means for forming one or more category frames

3   containing data for user-selectable categories;

4   means for forming a meta frame identifying the user-

5   selectable categories corresponding to the one or more

6   category frames; and

7   means for transmitting broadcast information including

8   the meta frame and the one or more category frames in

9   sequence on a common transmission media shared by a

10   plurality of users.

1   11. The system of claim 10, further comprising:

2   means, responsive to receiving the meta frame and the

3   one or more category frames at a device employed by one of

4   the plurality of users, for extracting category information

5   from the meta frame and presenting the user-selectable

6   categories to the user.

1   12. The system of claim 11, further comprising:

2   means, responsive to selection of a user-selectable

3   category by the user, for

4   receiving a category frame corresponding to the

5   user-selectable category from the one or more category

6   frames,

7   formatting data within the category frame for

8   presentation to the user, and

9   presenting the data from the category frame to the

10   user utilizing the device.

1   13. The system of claim 10, wherein the means for forming

2   one or more category frames containing data for user-

3   selectable categories further comprises:

4   means for forming each category frame with a starting
5   delimiter identifying a start of the respective category
6   frame, a major code identifying a category to which the
7   respective category frame belongs, encoded data for the
8   respective category frame, and an ending delimiter for the
9   respective category frame.

1   14. The system of claim 10, wherein the means for forming a
2   meta frame identifying the user-selectable categories
3   corresponding to the one or more category frames further
4   comprises:
5   means for forming the meta frame with
6   a starting delimiter identifying a start of the
7   meta frame,
8   a major code identifying the meta frame,
9   for each category corresponding to one of the one
10   or more category frames,
11   a category name for the respective category,
12   a major code identifying the respective
13   category to which the one of the one or more
14   category frames belongs,
15   position information specifying a position of
16   the one of the one or more category frames within
17   the broadcast information, and
18   an ending delimiter identifying an end of the meta
19   frame.

1   15. The system of claim 10, wherein the means for
2   transmitting broadcast information including the meta frame
3   and the one or more category frames in sequence on a common
4   transmission media shared by a plurality of users further
5   comprises:

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6   means for transmitting the meta frame and the one or

7   more category frames in repetitive succession in one or more

8   continuous cycles on one or more frequencies.

1   16. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for

2   transmitting the meta frame and the one or more category

3   frames in repetitive succession in one or more continuous

4   cycles on one or more frequencies further comprises:

5   means for transmitting the meta frame and the one or

6   more category frames in repetitive succession in a single

7   continuous cycle on a single frequency.

1   17. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for

2   transmitting the meta frame and the one or more category

3   frames in repetitive succession in one or more continuous

4   cycles on one or more frequencies further comprises:

5   means for transmitting the meta frame in repetitive

6   succession on a first frequency; and

7   means for transmitting subsets of the one or more

8   category frames in repetitive succession on one or more

9   other frequencies, wherein a unique subset of the one or

10   more category frames is transmitted on each of the one or

11   more other frequencies.

1   18. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for

2   transmitting the meta frame and the one or more category

3   frames in repetitive succession in one or more continuous

4   cycles on one or more frequencies further comprises:

5   means for transmitting the meta frame and the one or

6   more category frames in repetitive succession in a single

7   continuous cycle on each of a plurality of frequencies at

8   different offsets, wherein a different frame from the meta

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9   frame and the one or more category frames is transmitted at

10   a given time on each frequency within the plurality of

11   frequencies.

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19. A computer program product within a computer usable
medium for disseminating information, comprising:
    instructions for forming one or more category frames
containing data for user-selectable categories;
    instructions for forming a meta frame identifying the
user-selectable categories corresponding to the one or more
category frames; and
    instructions for transmitting broadcast information
including the meta frame and the one or more category frames
in sequence on a common transmission media shared by a
plurality of users.

20. The computer program product of claim 19, further
comprising:
    instructions, responsive to receiving the meta frame
and the one or more category frames at a device employed by
one of the plurality of users, for extracting category
information from the meta frame and presenting the user-
selectable categories to the user.

21. The computer program product of claim 20, further
comprising:
    instructions, responsive to selection of a user-
selectable category by the user, for
        receiving a category frame corresponding to the
        user-selectable category from the one or more category
        frames,
        formatting data within the category frame for
        presentation to the user, and
        presenting the data from the category frame to the
        user utilizing the device.

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1   22.   The computer program product of claim 19, wherein the
2   instructions for forming one or more category frames
3   containing data for user-selectable categories further
4   comprise:
5   instructions for forming each category frame with a
6   starting delimiter identifying a start of the respective
7   category frame, a major code identifying a category to which
8   the respective category frame belongs, encoded data for the
9   respective category frame, and an ending delimiter for the
10   respective category frame.

1   23.   The computer program product of claim 19, wherein the
2   instructions for forming a meta frame identifying the user-
3   selectable categories corresponding to the one or more
4   category frames further comprise:
5   instructions for forming the meta frame with
6   a starting delimiter identifying a start of the
7   meta frame,
8   a major code identifying the meta frame,
9   for each category corresponding to one of the one
10   or more category frames,
11   a category name for the respective category,
12   a major code identifying the respective
13   category to which the one of the one or more
14   category frames belongs,
15   position information specifying a position of
16   the one of the one or more category frames within
17   the broadcast information, and
18   an ending delimiter identifying an end of the meta
19   frame.

1   24.   The computer program product of claim 19, wherein the

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2   instructions for transmitting broadcast information

3   including the meta frame and the one or more category frames

4   in sequence on a common transmission media shared by a

5   plurality of users further comprise:

6   instructions for transmitting the meta frame and the

7   one or more category frames in repetitive succession in one

8   or more continuous cycles on one or more frequencies.

1   25. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the

2   instructions for transmitting the meta frame and the one or

3   more category frames in repetitive succession in one or more

4   continuous cycles on one or more frequencies further

5   comprise:

6   instructions for transmitting the meta frame and the

7   one or more category frames in repetitive succession in a

8   single continuous cycle on a single frequency.

1   26. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the

2   instructions for transmitting the meta frame and the one or

3   more category frames in repetitive succession in one or more

4   continuous cycles on one or more frequencies further

5   comprise:

6   instructions for transmitting the meta frame in

7   repetitive succession on a first frequency; and

8   instructions for transmitting subsets of the one or

9   more category frames in repetitive succession on one or more

10   other frequencies, wherein a unique subset of the one or

11   more category frames is transmitted on each of the one or

12   more other frequencies.

1   27. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the

2   instructions for transmitting the meta frame and the one or

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3   more category frames in repetitive succession in one or more

4   continuous cycles on one or more frequencies further

5   comprise:

6   instructions for transmitting the meta frame and the

7   one or more category frames in repetitive succession in a

8   single continuous cycle on each of a plurality of

9   frequencies at different offsets, wherein a different frame

10   from the meta frame and the one or more category frames is

11   transmitted at a given time on each frequency within the

12   plurality of frequencies.